

## STORY 58.

HOW IN A MUSLIM SOCIETY PUBLIC SERVANTS WERE  
CALLED TO ACCOUNT FOR THEIR MISDEEDS.

WALID son of Oqba was governor of Kufa. He was addicted to drinking and a life of luxury and the news of his evil life had got abroad.

Once he stood up to conduct the prayer, and as he was intoxicated he read four Rakats instead of the prescribed two. The people knew that he had not yet recovered from the effects of his mightly debauch, and they publicly expressed their anger that such a ruler had been imposed upon them. One day after this incident he stood upon the pulpit to deliver the Friday-sermon, when the people threw so many pebbles at him that he had to run away for his life.

Seeing Islam thus openly insulted some representatives of the people came to Medina and complained to (Hazrat) Osman. Walid was summoned to Medina and asked to clear his character, but as he failed to give satisfaction he was publicly flogged for his habit of drinking. Thus did the Muslims call to account their public men and vindicated the Majesty of the law.

## STORY 59.

SCRUPULOUS HONESTY IN THE MATTER OF  
PUBLIC PROPERTY.

IN the time of his Khilafat (Hazrat) Ali received a number of casks full of honey. These casks were still lying in the Bait-ul-Mal undistributed when one day some guests visited (Hazrat) Hassan the son of (Hazrat) Ali. (Hazrat) Hassan got bread from the bazaar and he asked Qumber the slave of (Hazrat) Ali to let him have some honey. The slave complied with the request, and gave him some.

One day as (Hazrat) Ali sat down to distribute the honey among the Muslims, he found that one of the casks was lighter than the rest. He felt sure that some honey had been taken out of it without his permission.

The slave told him how the honey had been used. (Hazrat) Ali became very angry and ordered (Hazrat) Hassan to be called before him. When (Hazrat) Hassan came (Hazrat) Ali was very indignant and rose to strike him and said "What made you so bold that you took the honey before the general distribution?"

(Hazrat) Hassan replied "Father, no misappropriation was meant I needed honey and thought, that when we got our share, I would give back as much as I had taken."

(Hazrat) Ali said: "No doubt you have as